April 21, 2008

Reply to
Attn of: ETPA-088   03-038-AFS

Mr. Kurt J. Nelson
Ketchum Ranger District
206 Sun Valley Road
P.O. Box 2356
Sun Valley, Idaho 83353

Ms. Sara E. Baldwin
Sawtooth National Recreation Area
5 North Fork Canyon Road
Ketchum, Idaho 83340

Dear Mr. Nelson and Ms. Baldwin:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Final Supplement to the North Sheep Final Environmental Impact Statement (FS-FEIS) for Fisher Creek, Smiley Creek, North Fork Boulder, and Baker Creek Sheep & Goat Grazing Allotments. We are submitting comments in accordance with our responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

We appreciate the additional information provided in the FS-FEIS, and the response provided to our comments on the Draft Supplemental FEIS. We have brief comments as a follow-up to your response concerning adaptive management:

We support the concept and practice of adaptive management. Monitoring, assessment, and appropriate response are essential to make it work. We understand that implementation is always subject to adequate funding, and that there is no assurance of its adequacy in the future. However, just as it is necessary to disclose in the NEPA document the likelihood that proposed mitigation will be implemented, it is also important to disclose the likelihood, based at least on past trends in funding, that the monitoring necessary to support adaptive management will be performed. We recommend that this information be provided in the FS-FEIS and the Record of Decision (ROD).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment throughout this NEPA process. If you would like to discuss any issues associated with this proposed project, please feel free to contact Elaine Somers of my staff at (206)553-2966 or by electronic mail at somers.elaine@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/

Christine B. Reichgott, Manager
NEPA Review Unit